GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3298
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
ISSUE OF BOND BY DTS
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom Services (DTSs) had planned to issue Bond of several cores during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earned as a result thereof;

(d) the manner in which the said amount is likely to be spent;

(e) whether the Government propose to invest proportionately more funds in increasing the cellular telephones through the DTS;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether any cost-effective study has been made regarding continuous dependence on fixed technology; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DTS had planned to raise Rs. 2152 crores through bonds but did not issue any bond, as DTS was corportised as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) w.e.f. 1.10.2000.

(c) An amount of Rs. 510 crores was raised by BSNL in March 2001 through bonds.

(d) The amount was utilised for augmentation of telecom services.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) During 2000-2001 BSNL initiated the process of introducing Cellular Services as a third operator in the form of Pilot Project. C-DOT was entrusted the execution of the project on a turnkey basis at a cost of Rs. 43.8 crores including installation & commissioning. Rs. 780 crores has been budgetted in 2001-02 for introducing GSM Cellular Mobile Service by BSNL.

(g) & (h): The assessment of cost and returns on investment is a continuous process, which is carried out before introduction of new technology option as and when they become commercially available. Recently BSNL has decided to introduce WLL and GSM Cellular Mobile Services in addition to fixed telephone services.